

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KHARTO 01805 310910Z
ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 L-03
CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 H-01 AID-05 IGA-02 MC-02
ACDA-07 OMB-01 TRSE-00 NEA-10 /075 W
-----310919Z 001978 /17

R 310820Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4499

C O N F I D E N T I A L KHARTOUM 1805

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, SU
SUBJECT: SUDANESE INTEREST IN US HELICOPTERS

1. GRANT MACKIE OF BELL HELICOPTER BRIEFED ME MAY 28 ON SUDANESE INTEREST IN HELICOPTERS. HE SAID SUDAN AIR FORCE WAS IMPRESSED WITH PERFORMANCE BELL 214 HELICOPTER WHEN IT WAS DEMONSTRATED HERE IN LATE APRIL. HE WAS ASKED TO RETURN WITH PROPOSAL FOR TWELVE BELL 214S TO BE DELIVERED BY END 1977. MACKIE SAID AT US \$1.5 MILLION PER COPY, TOTAL SALE WOULD BE \$18 MILLION. HE SAID COMPANY COULD PROVIDE THREE HELICOPTERS PER MONTH FROM SEPTEMBER THEREBY MEETING REQUESTED DELIVERY SCHEDULE PROVIDING AGREEMENT CAN BE REACHED WITHIN NEXT MONTH OR SO. MACKIE ALSO SAID HE HAS BEEN TOLD IF ALL GOES WELL TWELVE HELICOPTERS WOULD BE FIRST OF THREE SQUADRONS TO BE ORDERED BY SUDAN GOV THUS HE LOOKING FORWARD TO POTENTIAL SALE OF THIRTY-SIX HELICOPTERS WORTH \$54 MILLION. ACCORDING MACKIE SUDANGOV WANTS DEAL DIRECTLY WITH BELL AND NOT RPT NOT VIA FMS.

2. COMMENT: THERE NO QUESTION SUDANGOV URGENTLY WANTS HELICOPTERS, PRESUMABLY TO BE FINANCED BY SAUDIS. HOWEVER, MINDEF TOLD ME MAY 30, WITHOUT REFERRING
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PARTICULARLY TO HELICOPTER DEAL, THAT HE WANTS TO DO SO SOLELY VIA FMS ROUTE PRIMARILY TO AVOID ANY HINT OF UNLAWFUL PAYMENTS. FYI APPARENTLY SUCH CHARGES PRESENTLY ARE BEING LEVIED BY SOME SUDANESE AGAINST MINISTRY OF DEFENSE OFFICIALS. END FYI. IF SALE IS MADE DIRECTLY WITH BELL, IT WILL BE MOST IMPORTANT SUDANGOV MILITARY PURCHASE MADE DIRECTLY WITH US

FIRM, BUT TRANSACTION WILL BE WELL BELOW US \$25
MILLION LEVEL WHICH WOULD AUTOMATICALLY TRIGGER
CONGRESSIONAL REVIEW.
BOGOSIAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY PROCUREMENT, HELICOPTERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 31-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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TAGS: MASS, SU
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